19th FEBRUARY, 1803.

Received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

21st February, 1803.

Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next.

ABILL

To Incorporate the Directors of the Columbian Library Company.

- Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,
- 3 That Stephen B. Balch, Joseph Nourse, Charles D. Green, John
- 4 Craven, Francis Lowndes, junior, and George French, and their
- 5 fuccessors, duly elected or appointed in manner hereinaster directed,
- 6 be, and they are hereby made, declared and conflituted, in law
- 7 and in fact, to have continuance for ever, by the name, stile and
- 8 title of "The Directors of the Columbian Library Company in
- 9 George Town."

Sect. 2. And be it further enacted, That all and fingular, the 1 goods and chattles heretofore given, granted or divested to the 2 faid Library Company, or to any person or persons, for the use 3 thereof, or that may have been purchased for, or on account of 4 the same, be, and the said goods and chattles are hereby vested 5 in, and confirmed to the faid corporation: And further, that the 6 faid corporation may take and receive any fum or fums of money, 7 8 or any goods or chattles, or other effects of what kind or nature foever, which shall, or may hereafter be given, granted, or be-9 queathed unto them, by any person or persons, bodies politic or 10 corporate, capable of making fuch gift or bequest, such money, 11 12 goods, chattles, or other effects to be laid out and disposed of, in the purchase of books, maps, charts, drawings, specimens of mi-13 nerals, fosils, and other natural and artificial productions, calcu-14 lated to furnish a Library and Museum, for the use and benefit of 15 the faid company, agreeably to the intention of the doners. 16 SECT. 3. And be it further enacted, That the faid corporation, 1 by the name, slile, and title aforesaid, are hereby declared, and 2 made able and capable by law, at all times hereafter, to purchase, have, hold, receive and enjoy in fee fimple, or of any lefs estate 5 or estates, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchifes, and other hereditaments, not exceeding the clear yearly 6 value of thousand dollars, by the gift, 7 grant, bargain, sale, alienation, efacsiment, release, confirmation

or devise, of any person or persons, bodies politic or corpo-

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- 10 rate, able or capable to make the same; and also, to give, grant,
- 11 let, fell, and convey, or affign the same lands, tenements, rents,
- 12 annuities, liberties, franchises and hereditaments, as to the said
- 1.3 corporation shall feem meet and convenient.
 - 1 SECT. 4. And be it further enacted, That the faid corporation,
 - 2 by the name, stile and title aforefaid, be, and shall be hereafter
 - 3 forever able and capable by law, to fue and be fued, plead and
 - 4 be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be
 - 5 defended, in any court or courts, or other places, and before any
- 6 judge or judges, justice or justices, or other persons whatever,
- 7 within the diffrict of Columbia or elfewhere, in all and all man-
- 8 ner of suits, actions, complaints, pleas, causes, matters, and de-
- 9 mands, of whatfoever kind or nature they may be, in as full and
- 10 effectual a manner as any other person or persons, bodies politic
- 11 or corporate, may or can do.
 - 1 SECT. 5. And be it further enacted, That the faid corporation
 - 2 shall have full power and authority to make, have, and use, one
 - 3 common feal, with fuch devise and inscription as they shall think
- 4 proper, and the same to break, alter, and renew at their pleasure:
- 5 To appoint a treasurer, secretary, and librarian; to assign them
- 6 their duties, fix their compensation, and remove him or them from
- 7 office, and appoint another or others in their place, as often as
- 8 they shall think fit. To make, ordain, establish, and execute such
- 9 bye-laws, and ordinances as may be deemed useful to the insti-
- 10 tution, and the same to alter, amend, or abrogate at pleasure:

to fix the price of new shares, and annual contributions on each 11 share: to direct how transfers may be made and certified, and 12 judge of the persons proper to be admitted members: to procure 13 14 by purchase, rent, or otherwise, a suitable place for keeping the Library and Museum: to appoint the times for keeping the Li-15 brary open, and for taking out and returning books: to fill up 16 vacancies that may happen in their number, between two annual 17 meetings: to levy and collect fines and forfeitures, and to deter-18 mine upon, do, and transact all business and matters appertain-19 ing to the faid corporation and Library company, agreeably to. 20 the rules, ordinances, and bye-laws thereof, during their conti-21 nuance in office: Provided, that not less than three of the said 22 23 directors form a quorum to do business: that no bye-law, rule or ordinance shall be made, repugnant to the laws of this district; 24 and that no contribution be laid on any share, in any one year, 25 greater than one fifth of the value of a share, without the con-26 fent of a majority of the members. 27 SECT. 6. And be it further enacted, That there shall be an an-1 nual meeting of the members of the faid Library company, at 2 the Library, or fuch fuitable place as the directors may from time 3 to time appoint, of which the directors shall cause public notice 4 to be given, in one or more of the newspapers that circulate in the 5 vicinity: at which time and place, the members, or such of them 7 as may be present, either personally or by proxy, and shall not

be in arrears for any annual contribution, fines, or forfeitures, shall

- 9 elect and choose by ballot, fix directors out of their own number,
- 10 to serve for the year ensuing their election, and until others shall
- 11 be elected, and confent to ferve in their place.
 - 1 Sect. 7. And be it further enacted, That the directors shall
- 2 cause the treasurer, secretary, and librarian, to keep, in suitable
- 3 books for that purpose, just and proper entries of all the pro-
- 4 ceedings, and accounts of the company and corporation, and have
- 5 them laid before the company at every annual meeting, previous
- 6 to taking the votes for directors; and shall always deliver the
- 7 faid books, together with all the property of the company, in
- 8 good order to their fuccessors in office, whenever required.

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DUANE & SON, PRINTERS.